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 "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink."

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1955

A Soviet Change

Whether the new Russian regime is going to be an improvement, from the Western viewpoint, over any that has governed that country heretofore, only time, perhaps a long period of time, will tell. One little indication that things might possibly be on the mend is contained in an Associated Press dispatch from Moscow which says that Soviet science gradually is being freed from the shackles imposed upon it by the late Prime Minister Stalin. Under his dictatorship, Science, like everything else, was merely a tool of the Communist Party. The task of the scientists was to find a scientific basis for every social and economic theory contained in the Communist doctrine, to prove the decadence of anything that was opposed to that doctrine, and to convince the masses of the people that everything of constructive and permanent value in modern world society had been discovered, invented, or improved by Soviet specialists. This ridiculous theme was nurtured to such an extent that almost every new thing was put down to the credit of Russian Communism. Not only that; but universities and colleges were under strict orders not to co-operate with Western institutions of learning or research in any way whatsoever, for they had nothing to learn from them.

Now, no less a personage than Nikita Khrushchev, the head of the Communist Party, and who is generally believed to be the real power in the new regime, has come out with words of praise for Western agricultural methods and even advised officials in charge of farm operations to study these methods and, where possible, make use of them. Not to be outdone by the politicians, top Soviet scientists are reported to be "demanding" freedom of thought and technique in carrying out their research and experiments; and in this they seem to be receiving support from certain sections of the Government controlled press—something which was unheard of in the Stalin period.

All this may mean nothing more than a realization by Soviet leaders that their country is losing out, economically and even militarily, by keeping a fence between their own scientists and those of the West. The hope, of course, is that it means something more, perhaps the first sign of a belated return to more reasonable associations with the rest of the world. But, so far, the hope has little evidence, in other directions, to sustain it.

Farm Price Floors

In its annual presentation to the Federal Cabinet, the Canadian Federation of Agriculture has urged, among other matters, a change in price support policy. What is asked is a definite formula by which floors will be set for basic farm products. At the present time, the law provides no such formula and supports are arrived at by Government decision after hearing the views of the producers concerned. Commenting on the situation, the Ottawa Citizen points out that the Agricultural Prices Support Act differs sharply from United States legislation in that it does not bind the country to a policy of guaranteeing certain fixed percentages of so-called "parity" prices to the growers of a specified commodity. It is completely flexible. Under the Act, a floor may be provided in one year and withheld the next. In practice, supports have generally been at a stop-loss level rather than at one likely to encourage a great increase of production. This policy has kept treasury losses to a relatively low point, when contrasted with U. S. experience, and has avoided the continuing difficulties being experienced in that country where the administration is now striving to put farm price support on a more flexible basis.

Since the first operation under the Canadian legislation were undertaken in 1946, floors have been applied at various times to potatoes, apples, white beans, honey, skim milk, cheddar cheese, butter, shell eggs and hogs and cattle. The total cost to the treasury during an eight-year period has been \$83,564,000, but all but \$13,420,000 was represented by the foot and mouth disease emergency of three years ago. Further losses are in prospect from the present butter support program but in any case the total bill, in terms of stability for various farm industries, does not seem excessive.

F. A. has no quarrel with the main policy and, indeed, it declares that price supports should be at "non-incentive levels". It does however believe that a formula for setting floors might be more satisfactory than a law which leaves them completely a matter of negotiation. The CFA has offered a formula of its own for Cabinet consideration, involving percentages of what it is careful not to call party prices but which really amount to the same thing. The important point perhaps is that these percentages—65 to 85 percent of the base—provide flexibility. Whether they are realistic figures, in reference to the "non-incentive" aim, is a question for further study. In general, the Federation's approach to the problem appears to be a reasonable and responsible one and no doubt will be given the careful examination it deserves. There is nothing here of the adamant demands with which the U. S. Government has been plagued for years.

Scotland's Big Show

The Duke of Edinburgh has accepted the appointment as President of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland for 1955. He is expected to attend the Society's Annual Show which will be held in Edinburgh from June 21 to 24. This is the biggest event in the Scottish farming year and is attended by many thousands of people.

The 1955 Show will be the 116th in the history of the Society. To accommodate it an 86 acre site at Corstorphine on the western outskirts of Edinburgh has been obtained. A total of 28 acres will be devoted to the section showing machinery in motion. The entries for the trade stands, which closed at the end of December, are an all time record.

The show is in several parts. Judging animals takes place in the arena and is closely followed by the farming experts who assemble from all over Britain. A total of £7,000 in prize money has been provided from the funds of the Society and in addition there is a large number of trophies, medals and special prizes given by breed societies and private donors. This part of the show culminates, as at our own Provincial Exhibition, in the parade of the prize-winning animals.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Scotland exported more than £10,000,000 worth of tweeds during 1954. Of this total 43 per cent went to the United States and 13 per cent to Canada.

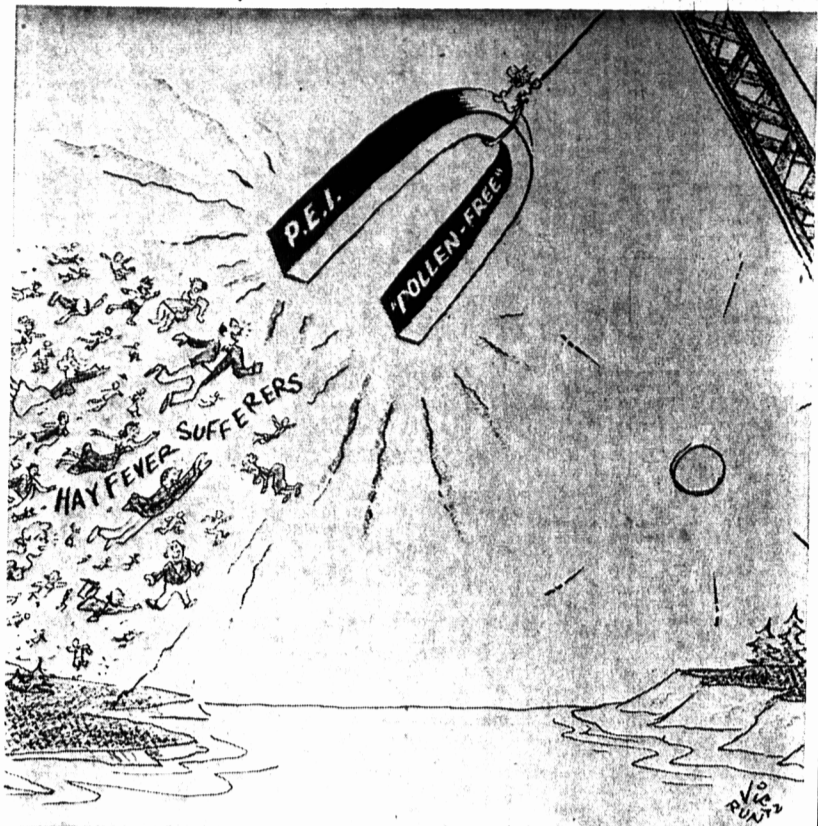
It is proposed now that when next the international hockey title is put up for competition the Canadian team should stay at home—that contestants in Europe should settle the question of continental supremacy and send the winners to this country to play for the cup.

The Communist bloc is certainly working fast to make friends with and influence the Indian Government and people. About a month ago the Soviet Union offered them a new steel plant all ready to start working. Now comes word that Czechoslovakia wants to give them another and, in addition, caustic soda and sugar manufacturing plants. All on good terms, too.

Increasing prosperity is forecast for Calthness, most northerly of Scotland's mainland counties. A number of promising developments are located in the area in which interest was aroused about two years ago by the decision of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother to make her home at the Castle of Mey, near Thurso. The most important of the new developments in the county is the atomic energy plant at Dounreay. About 2,000 workers will be engaged in the erection of the plant and there will be permanent employment for about 600, of whom 300 will be recruited locally.

Study and research on poliomyelitis is being undertaken on a world-wide scale by the World Health Organization. This United Nations agency is setting up a network of laboratories to study and identify various polio viruses isolated in different areas, as well as other viruses responsible for similar diseases. Knowledge gained through this long-term research programme will be used in the development of control measures.

In a year in which grain crops in Alberta were a disappointment, largely due to a bad harvest season, the Lethbridge Herald reports that the province's income from livestock was up \$8,300,000 in 1954, totalling \$151,879,854. During the year 2,278,138 head of meat animals were marketed, with cattle sales up 19 per cent, calves 16.5 per cent, sheep 8.5 per cent, and hogs one per cent. The figures would indicate complete recovery from the debacle of 1952 when a foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in the Regina area threw the livestock business into a tailspin.



Another Magnet

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of contributors.

KENSINGTON WATER SUPPLY

Sir.—As a citizen of Kensington and one who was compelled to abandon a restaurant business due to conditions related to the water contamination in this town, I wish to comment on a letter over the signature of Mr. Thomas Wigmore which appeared in the Guardian of March 12th.

It is possible that Mr. Wigmore would not have so belittled the seriousness of the present condition had he attended the public meeting at which the whole matter was discussed by Mr. R. D. Donnelly, sanitary engineer for the province, whose report on tests of drinking water from about 20 wells has since been superseded with the same results in later tests on five times this number of wells.

According to Department of Health officials the water from all contaminated wells in town should not be used as a water stand, and they point out that the nitrate content of water is increased by boiling, hence making it more dangerous than ever for infant feeding.

They have also recommended that some wells in the town be completely abandoned.

At a special meeting of the Kensington Town Council on Wednesday, March 2nd, Mr. White-man, a consulting engineer of Amherst, N.S., recalled that five years ago he had warned that present conditions would result, and he said that action should be taken now to at least provide a municipal water system.

The installation of a water system in a town is not only of great significance from a health standpoint, but is necessary for industrial development, and also invaluable in providing fire protection in the town.

The conditions here have become progressively worse over the last period of years as is revealed by a series of tests begun in 1950 when a complete survey was conducted.

While water contaminated by sewage may be tasteless and perhaps harmless when boiled, who is there among us that would not prefer to drink pure water?

I am, Sir, etc., BEN CHAMPION

Note On Education

(Montreal Star)

A world which has endured two gigantic wars inside three decades and which, at the same time, is in the grip of a continuing technological revolution, obviously needs something more and better education may not be a complete one, but it is at least part of it. We need something that will make people cool off, something that will give them a better and longer perspective, something that will make them stop briefly and think.

This will not be done of course by increasing emphasis on the technical and scientific aspects of education. These deal all with means to ends, rather than with the study of the end themselves, the study of the ultimate objectives, a civilization should pursue. The scientists, the technicians and the engineers can build us bigger and better bombs, bigger and better houses, larger and larger factories, more and more motor cars. Our highly trained physicians have learned and are learning how to mitigate suffering and prolong life. But to what end?

We find ourselves wishing that more of the speakers during Education Week would deal with this point. Why have we let the slide rule supplant the Bible, — if by the Bible we mean the broad study of human values and human ends? Why are the humanities and the social sciences neglected and pure and applied science elevated to high place, when it is only from the humanists and the historians that we can discover, even if dimly, how we came to be what we are and what mankind should cherish?

Can it be that educationists and the authorities who pay them believe that this kind of knowledge is absorbed in the air we breathe, or flows from the environment of society as it exists? There can be

"Getting A Little Feeble"

By Eddy Gilmore
 Associated Press, London

Sir Winston Churchill remains one of the liveliest feeble men in the world.

Just over 15 years ago the late Wendell Willkie, here for a private visit, confided:

"Churchill's great old man, but I'm afraid he's getting a little feeble."

Two days after he said that Willkie called on Churchill at 10 Downing street. Following their talk the prime minister accompanied the visiting American to the door step.

They stood there for photographs and as Willkie was leaving, Churchill took him by the arm saying:

"Here, Mr. Willkie, let me show you down this step. When it rains it sometimes becomes slippery."

Back at his hotel Willkie smiled and said, "and I called him feeble."

In August that year the late John G. Winant, then ambassador to Britain, went to a London railway station to welcome Churchill back from the Atlantic charter conference with President Roosevelt.

TRIPS BAD
 "Some of his friends," said the American ambassador, "say the prime minister shouldn't undertake such trips. They say he's getting a little feeble."

Ten minutes later Churchill bounded off a train and, with a cigar in his mouth and a naval cap on his head, energetically shook hands with the cabinet members and all others who turned up on the platform.

In his enthusiasm he accidentally stepped on Winant's foot. It was no feeble step.

One year later Churchill was in Moscow having his first meeting with the late Joseph Stalin. The late Lord Inverchapel was then the British ambassador to Russia. "He looks fine," mused the envoy, "but I'm afraid he's showing signs of feebleness."

Before he left Moscow on that trip Churchill exhausted the ambassador and half his staff of young men.

GOOD DAYS, BAD DAYS
 Two years later, in October 1944, Churchill was back in Moscow for more talks with Stalin.

A few days ago Churchill was the guest of honor at a correspondents luncheon. At one table was a British newspaper man who has

Whether he's working or playing, eating or sleeping, this man helps to develop Canadian communities in many important ways.

How can he do this?
 Simply by owning life insurance.

You see, every time he makes a payment on his policy, the money is invested for him in sound securities. And these securities, in turn, finance the building of many new homes, utilities, public works and industrial plants.

Likewise, he helps his fellow-citizens to enjoy better health. For it is he who makes it possible for life insurance companies to give financial aid to various medical research projects. From these studies may come new freedom from disease and extra years of life for you and yours.

Even the security his family enjoys with life insurance also benefits the community. For if anything happens to him, his loved ones will not have to depend upon others for their support.

In all of these ways, millions of life insurance policyholders are helping to make Canada a better land to live in.



Picture of a man improving his community

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Medically Speaking

Herman N. Bundesen, M.D.
 NEW HOPE IS OFFERED TO NEURITIS SUFFERERS

There is new hope for persons suffering from certain types of neuritis.

Tests conducted by Dr. Richard T. Smith of Pennsylvania Hospital indicate that administration of Protamide may speed recovery by as much as four weeks. Protamide is a solution of processed and denatured proteolytic enzyme obtained from the glandular layer of fresh hog stomach.

Medical Mystery
 Just why this solution should relieve pain of neuritis victims, we do not know. But the tests of Dr. Smith indicate that it does.

Dr. William Marsh of the National Naval Medical Center has reported that protamide is also valuable in the treatment of herpes zoster, or shingles.

There are many causes and many types of neuritis. For instance, it may develop as an aftermath of other virus infections, such as a severe upper respiratory infection.

But in all types, pain is the chief symptom. Neuritis is an inflammation of the nerves. When it is present in the spinal root, we call it radiculitis.

Dr. Smith included 104 patients in his study. They had various types of neuritis, but all were cases where there was inflammatory involvement of the nerve root. Also, all patients had previous virus infection or upper respiratory infection within three weeks before their neuritis began.

No Mechanical Injuries
 Through X-ray examinations, it was determined that none had any mechanical injuries or wounds which might have caused the neuritis.

Intramuscular injections of 1.3 cc. of Protamide were administered once each day for five days. In cases where all pain had not been relieved within this period, Dr. Smith reported the treatments were continued for another five days.

Eighty-four of the 104, he said, made complete recoveries within five or ten days. The average course of untreated neuritis is from three to six weeks.

It is important, Dr. Smith says, to begin treatment as quickly as possible. The 49 patients who reported complete relief within five days had been ill not longer than four days before treatment was begun.

On the other hand, the 20 patients who did not respond satisfactorily to treatment had suffered symptoms for more than a week before therapy was started.

This is what's new in medical science's never-ending fight to aid neuritis victims. But there are older effective measures doctors can take, too. I'll tell you about some of these tomorrow.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
 K. M.: I have developed a num-

LENTEEN MEDITATIONS

Great Certainties

The Times, London

One of the simplest ways of expressing what Christianity did for the ancient world is to say that it brought to it a great and indomitable hope. The organizing genius of Augustus sought to revitalize the Roman world, but failed to do so because, while it could restore the ancient festivals, it could not revive the old faith. It was reserved for obscure missionaries from Palestine to touch men's hearts with their message of the cross and resurrection, and to teach them to look forward eagerly into the future.

The hope of these early Christian thinkers was not, as hope so often is in the modern world, a piece of wishful thinking in which they took refuge from unpleasant facts. It had its roots in the past and the present; in the Lord who had so lived and died that they were conscious that in him God himself had visited his world. Hence they looked forward into the future for a still greater manifestation of him they were sure would come. They waited in expectation of something no less wonderful than the entry of all creation into "the glorious liberty of the children of God."

This is not the place in which

to deal with so controversial a question as the meaning for today of the hope of the Lord's return. Suffice it to say that no Christianity can claim to keep faith with the New Testament that does not reproduce in some form the assertion that Christ is Lord of the future, and that its uncertainties hold within its final victory, whatever form that may assume. Not, to be sure, that the coming of his kingdom is independent of any effort on the part of his followers. The New Testament contains many a rebuke to those who thought that hope could serve as an excuse for idleness; rather should it nerve men to bolder endeavour. The assurance that the kingdom of Christ will come is strong only in those who dedicate their lives to make its coming possible. But the source of their hope is never in man, but always in God. The words "I am the resurrection and the life" declare that what men looked for from the last days has come to pass in him. But the fulfilment of one hope creates another—the hope of a day when Christ will come into his own as he has not yet done.

NOTES BY THE WAY

In the Russian zone of Berlin a parrot cage door was accidentally left open and the bird escaped. The owner promptly inserted an advertisement in the local paper, reading: "If anyone finds my parrot, I want it definitely understood that I do not share its political opinions." —Wall Street Journal.

The mystery of the Soviet Army's role in the Kremlin's latest power shift seems to have been largely solved by recent developments. Marshal Zhukov, who was so ignominiously exiled to Odessa by Stalin in 1946, is the new Defence Minister, explicit recognition of his role as Russia's premier soldier. Marshal Konev, too, moved into the limelight with his boastful speech about the power of the Soviet armed forces. The conclusion would seem inescapable that the role of the military leaders has been enhanced by the latest changes. If, as seems

likely, Marshal Zhukov and his fellows now have a more powerful voice in Soviet policy making in which direction will their strength be thrown, toward peace or war? From their own experience, they know the destruction and horror of modern war, now enhanced incalculably by nuclear weapons. —New York Times.

The air age has just now opened up a new field of law in Ohio. In time the rest of the world will be initiated too. The question is: How far into the sky do a landholder's rights go? And how close to the ground do an aviator's rights go? Jet planes fly low over a farm and farm buildings as they approach and leave the Ohio airport. The farmer had to trim some trees to accommodate them. And he was also forced to agree not to put up any other obstructions which might hamper the planes. In other words the planes were given an "easement" on a piece of the sky above the farm. They could fly at will within a certain distance of the ground—down to 22.3 feet above the farm house, for instance—and he could do nothing about it. In return for surrendering whatever rights he might have had above the 22.3-foot level, he was entitled to some consideration. The government first offered him \$200, then \$2,150, but he took it to court and a jury gave him \$9,000. —Calgary Albertan.